

By: Gonzales of Hidalgo

H.R. No. 1802

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN) is a serious
2 condition that damages nerve fibers through prolonged exposure to
3 high amounts of glucose in the bloodstream as a result of diabetes;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In Texas, an estimated 1.7 million adults are living
6 with diabetes, and well over 400,000 are believed to have
7 undiagnosed diabetes; more than half of all diabetics suffer from
8 DPN, which often results in pain or numbness in the feet, but can
9 affect nearly any nerve in the body; and

10 WHEREAS, Because DPN affects the very ends of nerves first,
11 starting with the longest nerves, feet and legs are often affected
12 initially, followed by hands and arms; possible signs and symptoms
13 include numbness or reduced ability to feel pain or changes in
14 temperature, a tingling or burning sensation, sharp, jabbing pain
15 that may be worse at night, pain or difficulty when walking, extreme
16 sensitivity to the lightest touch, muscle weakness, and foot
17 problems such as ulcers, infections, and deformities; and

18 WHEREAS, Exercise is critical in managing diabetes, but DPN
19 can make it difficult to stay physically active, diminishing
20 glycemic control and making sufferers more likely to develop
21 additional health problems, including further nerve damage; people
22 with neuropathy need to take special care of their feet, as loss of
23 sensation means that sores or injuries may not be noticed and can
24 become ulcerated or infected; and

1 WHEREAS, The leading cause of amputations in the United
2 States, DPN causes from 40 to 60 percent of lower extremity
3 amputations, but comprehensive foot care programs may reduce
4 amputation rates by an estimated 45 to 85 percent; and

5 WHEREAS, It is vital that people with diabetes make healthy
6 lifestyle choices to keep blood sugar under control, and that they
7 be aware of the warning signs of DPN and seek early diagnosis in
8 order to limit complications and potentially delay the onset or
9 progression of this life-changing condition; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
11 Legislature hereby recognize May 16-20, 2011, as Diabetic
12 Peripheral Neuropathy Awareness Week and encourage all Texans to
13 learn more about the dangers of DPN.